

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A method for removing pigments from a pigmented section of skin, comprising:

- a) puncturing the skin at said pigmented section with a skin-puncturing device provided with at least one needle, thereby liberating the pigments and cellular fluids from cells containing said pigments; and
- b) bandaging said punctured skin with a pad adapted to absorb said pigments and said cellular fluids, said pad containing one or more materials capable of accelerating a process of migration of said pigments toward an outer layer of the skin, wherein said one or more materials is a salt-based granular paste.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, further comprising applying one or more antiseptic materials to the punctured skin.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the punctured skin is bandaged with a pad containing one or more antiseptic materials.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the skin-puncturing device is a tattooing device.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one needle attached to the skin-puncturing device is solid.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 5, wherein the skin-puncturing device is further provided with suction means.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 6, further comprising, prior to the bandaging of the punctured skin and during the puncturing of said skin, performing suction of the pigments and cellular fluids from said punctured skin with the suction means.

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the salt-based granular paste contains saline.

Claims 10-13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising injecting an aqueous solution ~~is injected~~ into the pigmented section during the puncturing of the skin.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising applying at least one antibiotic material to the punctured skin.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising including at least one antibiotic material for treating the skin in said pad.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more materials in said pad are capable of absorbing at least five grams of an aqueous mixture containing tattoo ink and cellular debris per ten square centimeters of area of said pad in a period of time no more than twenty minutes.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one

needle attached to said skin-puncturing device is hollow.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising coupling a means for providing suction to said hollow needle.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, further comprising, prior to the bandaging of the punctured skin and during the puncturing of said skin, sucking the pigments and cellular fluids from said punctured skin with said means for providing suction.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said skin-puncturing device includes no ink to be injected.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ removing the pad prior to damaging the skin, wherein the removing occurs in a period of time no more than twenty minutes.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ removing the pad prior to complete saturation of the pad.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ covering the pad with a dressing.

Claims 25-26. (Cancelled)

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[25]] 1, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

removing the pad after ~~absorbing~~ at least some of said pigments and cellular fluids are absorbed; and

applying antibiotic materials to the punctured skin after removing the pad.

Claim 28. (New) A method for removing pigments from a pigmented section of skin, comprising:

- a) puncturing skin at said pigmented section with a skin-puncturing device provided with at least one needle, thereby liberating pigments and cellular fluids from cells containing said pigments;
- b) providing a pad adapted to absorb the pigments and cellular fluids liberated by the puncturing, said pad containing one or more materials capable of accelerating a process of migration of said pigments toward an outer layer of the skin, wherein said one or more materials is a salt-based granular paste; and
- c) bandaging a surface of said punctured skin by placing the pad in direct contact with the surface of the punctured skin such that the one or more materials contained in the pad have direct contact with the surface of the punctured skin but remain contained within the pad.